

## University of Illinois at Chicago - Department of Pediatric Dentistry

### Certificate/MS/MPH (3-year) Program Description

#### ***Is the three-year program new?***

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The Department of Pediatric Dentistry was awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant renewal which aims to improve access to, and the delivery of, oral health care services for all individuals, particularly low income, underserved, uninsured, underrepresented minority, health disparity, and rural populations. As part of the training grant, the Department will expand inter-professional teaching activities and rotations with external clinical sites and the University of Illinois Hospital.

The grant also offers funding for a Master of Public Health Degree. The School of Public Health has similar dual-degree programs with other professional schools at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

#### ***How many positions will be offered for the 3-year program?***

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The UIC Department of Pediatric Dentistry will accept 9 residents into the 2021-2022 entering class. Two positions are reserved for the 3-year combined Certificate program with a Master of Public Health (MPH). Applicants will receive the Certificate, MS and MPH after fulfilling the requirements of each programs. Residents concurrently obtain the Master of Science (MS) in Oral Sciences Degree, which is also required in the 24-month program.

#### ***How should applicants interested in this communicate their interest?***

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Applicants interested in the 3-year program should express their interest in their application materials, during the interview (if invited), or by emailing the program director. Individuals invited for an interview will interview for both the 2-year and 3-year program. Both positions in this program will be awarded through the Match process. Applicants can rank one, both, or neither program depending on professional interests and perceived fit for the individual programs. Each program will have its own match code, and applicants who are not interested in a particular program should not rank that program.

#### ***Will residents in this program receive a stipend?***

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Residents are paid through Graduate Medical Education during the first and second years of the program at a PGY-1 and PGY-2 level, respectively. During the third year, residents in the 3-year program will be paid a stipend at a PGY-3 level through the HRSA grant. The grant will cover the stipend, benefits, and tuition costs for the MPH program. Because the program is federally funded by HRSA, only individuals eligible to work in the United States may be considered for this program.

#### ***How will the MPH coursework be distributed over the three years?***

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The first year of the 3-year program will focus on the clinical and didactic Pediatric Dentistry requirements and applying to the SPH. The MPH and Pediatric Dentistry coursework will be balanced during the second and third years. This means that residents in the 3-year program will maintain clinical activity throughout the duration of the program.

Residents accepted to the 3-year program will be seen as competitive applicants to the School of Public Health (SPH). Nevertheless, those accepted will be required to submit a formal application during the first

year of the program to gain admission to the SPH. Residents will work closely with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Public Health regarding admissions, enrollment, and completion of the requirements for the MPH degree.

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### ***Is the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) required to apply to the School of Public Health?***

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The SPH generally grants a waiver for the GRE requirement for people having terminal professional degrees. Evidence of quantitative skills may be necessary for individual interested in Biostatistics or Epidemiology.

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### ***What does the MPH Curriculum look like?***

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Residents accepted to the 3-year program will work with the Program Director, Grant Staff, and Academic Advising staff to identify the School of Public Health Division that is most fitting to the resident's professional interests. Historically, this has been the hybrid Health Policy and Administration. Information about SPH Divisions can be found at:

1. [Community Health Sciences \(CHS\)](#)
2. [Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences \(EOHS\)](#)
3. [Epidemiology and Biostatistics](#)
4. [Health Policy and Administration \(HPA\)](#)

Although there is curriculum overlap between the programs, the individual course requirements for each program vary, and courses will be online or in-person. There is no thesis requirement for the MPH, but the program does require completion of a capstone project and a practicum project. Research requirements for the Certificate and MS will still apply.

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### ***Why would I be interested in an MPH degree?***

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An MPH is a highly desirable degree and educational experience for any individual in the healthcare field. In the field of Pediatric Dentistry, the MPH can be appropriately tailored to an individual interested in a career in clinical dentistry, academics, research, leadership, advocacy, and public policy, among other fields. The ability to receive a tuition-paid MPH degree while still earning a resident stipend is a unique opportunity through the UIC Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

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### ***Who should I contact if I have questions or want additional information?***

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Applicants interested in the 3-year program may express their interest to the Pediatric Dentistry Program Director prior to the application deadline. This will ensure that consideration is made of applicants who may be a good fit for the program. Additionally, questions and requests for information can be directed to the following:

David M. Avenetti, DDS, MSD, MPH – Program Director and Co-PI – [Avenetti@uic.edu](mailto:Avenetti@uic.edu)  
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